The Center for Translational Social Neuroscience’s (CTSN) opening celebration on February 10, 2011 was a “resounding success” according to CTSN Director Larry Young. The event began with Dr. Young describing the mission of the CTSN to bring together basic scientists and clinical researchers to promote discovery and healing of the social brain. Then Dr. Ami Klin, the newly appointed Director of the Marcus Autism Center, described the incredible opportunities presented by the convergence of resources at the CTSN, The Marcus Center, Emory and CHOA as “a dream come true”.

Several CTSN faculty members presented brief overviews of their research related to the CTSN mission. Topics ranged from the basic biology of cooperation and social bonding to the core social deficits in autism. “A major goal of the CTSN is to translate discoveries about the social brain made in animal models to treatments of social deficits in psychiatric populations” commented Dr. Young to the more than 150 attendees. “The excitement was palpable” according to Dr. Barbara Stoll, MD, Chair of Pediatrics and President of the Emory Children’s Center.

Following the presentations, attendees enjoyed hors d’oeuvres and had an opportunity to socialize while enjoying over 60 research posters from CTSN associated labs.